

CLAIMS

Sub a'7 1. An information providing apparatus for displaying information on a screen, based on information data provided through a plurality of information sources, characterized by comprising:

first information obtain means for obtaining first information data concerning a first information source of the plurality of information sources, from the first information source;

second information obtain means for obtaining second information data concerning a second information source of the plurality of information sources, from the second information source;

menu screen display means for displaying a categorized menu screen on the screen, based on the first and second information data obtained; and

display means for obtaining necessary information data from the first or second information source, in response to selection operation on the menu screen, thereby to display information based on the necessary information data onto the screen.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the first information data is index information concerning contents output from the first information source and the necessary information is information data for displaying contents of the contents.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the first information source and the information providing apparatus are connected with each

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other through a network, and

the first information obtain means obtains the first information data through the network.

4. An information providing method for displaying information on a screen, based on information data provided through a plurality of information sources, characterized by comprising:

a first information obtain step of obtaining first information data concerning a first information source of the plurality of information sources, from the first information source;

a second information obtain step of obtaining second information data concerning a second information source of the plurality of information sources, from the second information source;

a menu screen display step of displaying a categorized menu screen on the screen, based on the first and second information data obtained; and

a menu screen display step of obtaining necessary information data from the first or second information source, in response to selection operation on the menu screen, thereby to display information based on the necessary information data onto the screen.

5. A method according to claim 4, characterized in that the first information data is index information concerning contents output from the first information source and the necessary information is information data for displaying contents of the

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contents.

6. An apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that in the first information obtain step, the first information data concerning the first information source is obtained from the first information source through the network.

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